

SEEKING INFORMATION

BY Mary F. Thornton.

The story below is just one example of the efforts made by a number of people.

Although a certain number of members did respond very well to the worksheets sent out in connection with the "Officials Catalogue", it is very clear that in many cases our knowledge is most limited. Much as I would like to find the answers to some of the outstanding questions, there is a limit to the number of letters I can write, or the postage I can afford.

When it came to the turn of the Cape of Good Hope official perfins, there were no more than three Worksheets giving any information, and so I decided to write to South Africa, and sent off a letter to the Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town asking if anyone could help with information about the Cape of Good Hope officials.

In her airmail reply the Secretary said, "---Your letter was read out at one of our Meetings, and copies made and sent to the Publicity Officer of the G.P.O., Pretoria, and also to the Editor of the South African Philatelist in Johannesburg, The Assistant Editor has written to me today advising me that your enquiries are being published in this magazine in May (1965), and we hope that some information will be forthcoming in due course ---".

Under "Information Required" a notice was duly inserted in the May, 1965 "South African Philatelist". The last paragraph asked for information about the way in which the official perfins were made, the machine used, dates of use, and values of stamps perforated.

The result of this was that I had one letter (airmail) from Mr. J.T. Burrell of Transvaal, who most kindly wrote to tell me about some of these stamps in his collection, and he enclosed a photostat copy of the page. He also told me that he understood there would be a chapter on these stamps in the new publication to be produced by the Philatelic Federation of South Africa, but he gave no date as to when this would appear. I regret I cannot buy it.

When the page on Cape of Good Hope appears in the next chapter of the Officials Catalogue, it will look "so easy", but having read this short story, I hope our members will give a thought to the work done in connection with this compilation, and very many thanks to the philatelists overseas who have taken so much trouble on our behalf.

(Editors Note:- I am sure we are all very appreciative of)
(the work Miss Thornton must have put into this catalogue)
(The 54 pages issued so far bear witness to this effort)
(and the chapter to come keeps up the same high standard.)